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**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **MAYOR PEREZ ESTABLISHES HARTFORD TASK FORCE ON AIDS**

**HARTFORD, CT** – Mayor Eddie Perez has convened a **Task Force on AIDS** to provide recommendations on how to maximize the City of Hartford's response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. "Most individuals who are not infected or affected by the disease believe that the crisis is *over* and that it is *managed*," stated Mayor Perez.

In addition, the Task Force will be charged with identifying systemic changes which may need to be addressed within the City's administration as well as external groups such as the business community, social service providers, and civic arenas. "If we want to make a real difference, that also means re-educating if necessary our state and federal policy makers," said Mayor Perez.

The Task Force on AIDS will be expected to make their recommendations to Mayor Perez by early August and implement an action plan within two years.

The Task Force on AIDS will examine the current inventory of services and gather resource materials such as need assessments and reports which outline the face of AIDS in Hartford. Also, the task force will receive community input from Hartford residents concerned about this critical health crisis.

**Individuals that have been appointed to the Task Force on AIDS are:**

Councilwoman Elizabeth Horton Sheff (Co-Chair)  
Ann Levie (Co-Chair)  
Suzette Benn  
Edna Berastain  
Paul Botticello  
Ethel Boyd  
Evelyn Collazo  
Brenda Delgado  
Linda Estabrook  
Alice Ferguson  
Nilda Fernandez  
Brian Liebert  
Kim May Bailey  
John Merz  
Renee Richards  
Phil Richmond  
Carmen Soto

City of Hartford  
Hispanic Health Council  
Urban League of Greater Hartford  
Latinos Contra SIDA  
AIDS Project Hartford  
Community Health Services  
Hartford Resident  
Central CT AHEC  
Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health  
The Living Center  
CCMC – Teen HIV Services  
Community Health Services  
MECA Center  
CT. AIDS Residence Coalition  
City of Hartford – Mayor’s Office  
Hartford Dispensary  
Community Health Services